THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount of money realised by way of disinvestment during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 was Rs. 1,868.73 crore and Rs, 5,724.50 crore (inclusive of dividend: special interim dividend dividend tax, withdrawals from surplus etc.) respectively.

(c) to (e) As mentioned by the Finance Minsiter in his budget speech for the year 2001-2002, the disinvestment proceeds are to be used for providing restructuring assistance to PSUs safety net to workers, reduction of debt burden and additional budgetary support for the plan, primarily in the social and infrastructure sectors.

Funds for Developement Reform Facility

*112. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND PROVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that distribution of funds from Rs. 2500 crore development reform facility will be determined on the basis of State, poverty ratios;

(b) if so, where the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Bihar stand in this scheme; and

(c) the number of districts which have been identified in these States for utilization of these funds and the projects which are to be financed out of them?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The development and reform facitlity is a new initiative introduced in current year budget with an allocation of Rs. 2500 crores. The Planning Commission has not finalised the modalities of the scheme.

Utilisation of cash advance funds after disinivestment of companies

†*113. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate a policy regarding utilization of cash advance funds of PSUs after their disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this policy is expected to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. The existing policy and procedures of disinvestment are quite comprehensive.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds for Development of NER

*114. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary allocation to his Department since its inception, year-wise;

(b) the thrust of the Ministry in the development of the North-Eastern Region;

(c) the criteria, if any for the allocation of fund of each State; and

(d) the mechanism for effective implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Department of Development of North-Eastern Region (DONER) was created in September, 2001. The first budgetary allocation for the Department was made for Rs. 478.51 crores for the fiscal year 2002-03. A provision of Rs. 500 crores was made in the Demand for Grants relating to the Ministry of Finance in 2001-2002 towards the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources which is administered by DONER.

(b) Some of the major thrust areas for economic development of North East consist of improving the infrastructure; providing greater access to basic social services like education, health, drinking water and sanitation etc.; expanding economic and social opportunities for all; building capacities aimed at increased efficiency; creating an environment for private